

- 11 -

CLAIMS

1. An assembly for unrolling stretch film from a spool (8) and pre-stretching the film as it is fed from the assembly towards the goods/products to be wrapped, comprising control means (2, 4) for controlling the forward movement of said film downstream of said spool (8) and cutting means (13, 14) for lacerating said film, arranged downstream of said control means (2, 4), the assembly being characterized in that, downstream of said cutting means (13, 14), it comprises means (11) for preventing the return of the film in the direction opposite to the one in which it leaves the assembly
2. The assembly according to claim 1, wherein said return preventing means (11) comprise two rubber-covered rollers (11) rotating in opposite directions, arranged in contact with each other in such a way as to allow the film to pass between them and provided with means preventing them from rotating in the direction opposite to the one in which the film leaves the assembly.
3. The assembly according to claim 2, wherein said rotation preventing means comprise drawn cup roller clutches on which said rollers (11) are mounted.
4. The assembly according to any of the previous claims, wherein said cutting means (13, 14) comprise an arm (13) hinged at an intermediate position in such a way as to be able to undergo an angular displacement in a plane crossing the plane in which the film lies as it leaves the assembly, and a blade (14) projecting transversely from one end of said arm, said arm being capable of moving angularly between a cutting position, in which said blade (14) perforates the film, and a rest position in which the blade (14) does not interfere with the film, there being

- 12 -

provided actuator means (16, 17) for controlling the angular displacement of the arm.

5 The assembly according to claim 4, wherein said actuators (16, 17) comprise a pair of linear
electromagnetic actuators (16, 17) acting on,
respectively, the end of said arm (13) opposite the one
that bears said blade (14) and a point intermediate
between the blade (14) and the hinge point of the arm
(13), so that said cutting position and said rest position
10 are determined by appropriately opposite forward/backward
configurations of said actuators.

6. The assembly according to claim 4 or claim 5, wherein
said arm (13) with said blade (14) and said actuator means
(16, 17) are housed inside a casing (10b), in which a slot
15 (15) is formed to permit said blade to project at least
partially from the casing (10b) in said cutting position.

7. The assembly according to any of the previous claims,
wherein said cutting means (13, 14) and said return
preventing means (11) are supported by a frame (10) that
20 can be detached from the rest of the assembly.

8. A method for cutting stretch film fed by an assembly
for unrolling and pre-stretching the film towards
goods/products to be wrapped due to the effect of relative
movement between said merchandise/products and said
25 assembly, the latter comprising means (2, 4) for
controlling the unwinding of the film from a spool (8) and
means (13, 14) for cutting the film, in which method the
film is brought to a halt by locking the control means,
and the cutting means (13) are simultaneously operated to
30 the lacerate said film, the cut being completed due to the
effect of the stretching of the film following the
wrapping movement, the method being characterized in that

- 13 -

said control means (2), following the execution of the laceration by said cutting means (13, 14), are unlocked to permit the laceration to pass downstream of means (11) for preventing the return of the film in the direction
5 opposite the one in which it leaves the assembly, the film being then brought to a halt again by means of the control means (2) in order to complete the cut.